

MATRIARCH OF OLD WORLD ROYALTY IS 94 TO-MORROW

Sad Birthday for Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Hated by Germans as English Princess

By F. CUNLIFFE-OWEN.

TOMORROW the Matriarch of Old World royalty will celebrate in the utmost retirement, in the picturesque little German city of Neustrelitz, her ninety-fourth birthday. She bears the title of Dowager Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and also that of Princess of the Wendes, one which recalls memories of those Vandal Vikings who in ancient times overran France and Spain, sacked Rome, and ruled the Mediterranean from Carthage.

In past years the birthday of this venerable lady has been observed throughout the Grand Duchy with much official state and popular rejoicing. But there will be nothing of the kind to-morrow, and the celebration will be a very quiet one indeed, for two reasons.

One of these is that the German Empire, of which Mecklenburg-Strelitz is one of the twenty odd sovereign Federal States, is engaged in a war for its very existence. The other is that the old Grand Duchess has the misfortune, in Teuton eyes, to have been born as a Princess of the reigning house of Great Britain and Ireland, of which she is the senior member, and as such has come in for her share of the bitter hatred which the people of the land of her adoption have developed since the beginning of the present international configuration.

It is a hatred which, fostered by certain members of the reigning houses of Germany, especially by those who have English affiliations, or English blood in their veins, takes the most unreasoning forms, as, for instance, manifestations of ill will, and even of hostility, to the aged Grand Duchess, although the latter became a German by her marriage more than seventy-two years ago.

Only surviving granddaughter of King George III. of England, she came into the world as Victoria, where her father, the Duke of Cambridge, was acting as viceroy for his brother, George IV., the crowns of Hanover and of England being in those days united. But she was brought up altogether in England as an English girl, and, very little younger than her cousin, Queen Victoria, was her principal girlhood friend until Victoria ascended the throne.

Her marriage to Grand Duke Frederick William of Mecklenburg-Strelitz followed not long after that of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and took place in the presence of the Queen in the private chapel of Buckingham Palace, Parliament voting the bride a civil list annuity of \$15,000 a year for the remainder of her life. In spite of this vote, contrary to a treaty between Great Britain and Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the payment of the annuity to the Grand Duchess has been suspended by the British treasury since the be-

ginning of the war on the ground that she belongs to the reigning house of a foreign country now engaged in hostilities against Great Britain.

The sequestration of the annuity, however, is only one of the least of the troubles which have overtaken the Grand Duchess—still wonderfully alert in body and mind—in the evening of her eventful life. For besides the loss of the great popularity which she formerly enjoyed, not alone in Mecklenburg-Strelitz but also throughout all Germany, she feels acutely the fact that her grandchildren are arrayed on opposite sides, and that she is cut off from all intercourse with her favorite niece, Queen Mary of England, to whom she is very deeply attached, and who was wont to spend a few weeks with her at Neustrelitz every fall after the old lady had given up her charming and hospitable house at Buckingham Gate, in London, on the death of her husband in 1904.

The Grand Duchess's grandson, the present ruler of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, is in the field in France, with the rank of Colonel, against those English among whom he was wont to spend much of his half-yearly visits before the outbreak of the war. He was a very familiar and popular figure in London society.

One of his sisters, since the dissolution of the extraordinary mesalliance which she contracted with a French patent medicine manufacturer's son, of the name of George Jametel, is now married to Prince Julius Ernest of Lippe, who is also serving at the front in France against the British, as a Prussian officer, while another sister, Duchess Jutta, is the wife of the Crown Prince of Montenegro, who is fighting on the side of the quadruple entente against Germany and her allies.

Although until the commencement of the present international configuration the aged Grand Duchess was renowned for the sunniness of her character, her disposition to look on the brightest side of life, and to make the best of everything, it cannot be denied that her long life has been one of many sorrows. They may be said to have commenced when her wonderful good looking husband was suddenly blinded by their only son, Adolf.

The latter was playing as a boy in the courtyard of the palace at Neustrelitz, when his father happened to pass. In some way or other the hard ball which the royal lad was throwing to a companion, struck his father with such force in the right eye as to destroy its sight. The other eye became shortly afterward sympathetically affected, as is so often the case, and total blindness ensued in consequence. Grand Duke Frederick William managed to conceal his affliction in the most wonderful fashion, and at Hamburg, where he was wont to spend the month of August each year until his death, he was so clever in responding



Queen Elizabeth of Belgium.

to the salutations which he received from every side, thanks to a nudge or whisper from his aide-de-camp, that few of the many Americans who were wont to encounter him on the promenade had any idea that he was sightless.

Then there were troubles with Prussia and with Bismarck. For in the war of 1866, her own sympathies and those of her blind husband were wholly and entirely with Austria, and wholly against Prussia. Indeed, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz narrowly escaped the fate of his similarly sightless kinsman, and his fellow ruler King George of Hanover, who lost his throne, was robbed of his private fortune and of his dominions, which were annexed to Prussia, and was driven forth to die in foreign exile.

The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess were in fact submitted in the latter '60s to so many humiliations by Prussia that the latter must assuredly have lost sight at the time of the circumstance that its national heroine, Queen Louise of Prussia, who played so great a role in the war of liberation in the first two decades of the nineteenth century, was a daughter of the house of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and not only mother to old Emperor William but aunt to the blind Grand Duke at Neustrelitz.

While the Grand Duchess was deeply devoted to her afflicted husband, she did not altogether relish his opinions in matters of domestic policy. For whereas she still retains to this day that Liberalism which is the birthright of every one of British blood, her husband favored paternalism, absolutism carried to an extraordinary degree.

He was convinced that the latter was the best form of government, and would

not permit a house to be built, or even a tree to be planted, either in his capital, or in any other of the cities or towns of his dominions, without his sovereign consent, and maintained the rule, which must seem extraordinary in American eyes, according to which the boxes and the best seats in the opera house and theatres of the Grand Duchy are restricted to the nobility, and the bourgeoisie are barred therefrom to this day, no matter how large a sum of money they may offer for a box.

His son and successor, the late Grand Duke Adolf, entertained far more broad minded and progressive views, which he inherited from his English mother, but which naturally brought him into constant conflict with his father. Indeed, on coming to this throne he offered to make a free gift of 10,000,000 marks to the national Treasury of Mecklenburg-Strelitz if the nobles would abandon their opposition to his grant to his people of a Constitution similar to that now enjoyed by the other sovereign States of the confederation known as the German Empire.

But it was of no avail, and he may be said to have spent his entire reign in a fruitless struggle about the matter with his nobles, who of course take advantage of their privileged position to place almost the whole burden of taxation upon the bourgeoisie, the peasantry and the working class, who have no franchise, thus relieving their own class of the weight of national

imposts to the point of almost entire immunity.

Grand Duke Adolf was a sad faced, unhappy looking man, his entire life having been clouded by the memory of the accident by which he blinded his father. Moreover, he had no end of trouble and sorrow with his two daughters, one of whom, now Princess of Lippe, became involved as a young girl, through her own foolishness and inexperience and through the criminal folly of her governess, in a scandal of international notoriety, prior to her amazing mesalliance to the French apothecary's son, George Jametel, who has been a frequent visitor to the United States in recent years.

The early period of his other daughter's marriage to the Crown Prince of Montenegro was also troubled by much dissension, which compelled her on several occasions to seek refuge with her parents under circumstances which attracted popular attention, although they have become a united couple. Finally, the late Grand Duke's only son, the present ruler of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, was a source of much worry to his parents by reason of his wildness and the number of scrapes in which he was constantly becoming involved both at home and abroad—scrapes which led to the breaking off of the match which had been arranged for him with the Kaiser's only daughter, now Duchess of Brunswick.

Grand Duke Adolf died last year rather suddenly at Berlin without his English mother, old Grand Duchess

Augusta Caroline, being accorded the consolation of seeing him and bidding him farewell before he passed away.

From this it will be seen that she has had in her long life of near a century her fair share of sorrows and troubles.

Another birthday during the week opening to-day, and which calls for sympathetic interest here in America, is that of the Queen Mother of Spain on Wednesday. The regard felt for her here in this country is all the greater by reason of the fact that as regent she was in control of the destinies of Spain at the time of its war with the United States in 1898. Americans always respect a brave and gallant foe, and that Queen Maria Christina then showed herself to be and bore herself with so much sagacity throughout that trying period as to win universal admiration.

Although of Austrian birth and a daughter of that House of Hapsburg, which is generally credited with reactionary and ultra-conservative views rather than with progressiveness she brought up her boy (who being of posthumous birth was a king from the very moment that he came into the world) as a Liberal and identified herself during his sixteen years of minority with the Liberals rather than with the Conservatives, making old Senor Sagasta, the Liberal leader, her principal counselor and confidant. And not content with administering the regency according to Liberal instead of Conservative views, she has trained her son to be the most progressive, enlightened and democratic monarch that has ever occupied the throne of Spain.

Thanks to this, thanks also to the manner in which through her influence and training he has managed to keep his name free from all scandal in the face of all the temptations that beset the path of a gallant, sport loving young King, bubbling over with life and enthusiasm, the dynasty is more firmly established upon the throne than at any time in hundreds of years, when Queen Christina assumed the regency on the sudden death of her husband thirty years ago. So much was this the case that it was freely predicted, both in Spain and abroad, that ere many months were passed a Carlist restoration would take place or another republic be proclaimed.

Foreigners are never liked in Spain, least of all Austrians and members of the house of Hapsburg. Her adversaries took every possible advantage of this fact and placed all sorts of obstacles and pitfalls in her path. But it was in vain. She commenced by conquering the profound respect of the people of the land of her adoption, and then their affection, by the able and devoted manner in which she administered the kingdom for her son. Now she has the gratitude of the Spanish people for giving them a ruler of whom they have every reason to be proud and who has succeeded in existing as much sympathetic interest abroad as he enjoys in his own native land of the Hildagoes.

Just at present Queen Christina's life at Madrid is not exactly a bed of roses. For although Spain has until now held aloof from the war now raging, yet it has had the effect of creating no little unpleasantness at the Court of Madrid. For, whereas the sympathies of Queen Christina in the conflict are naturally with her native Austria, of whose armies her eldest brother Frederick is Generalissimo, those of Queen Ena, of the Infant Louise, who is a Princess of the house of France, of Princess Beatrice, wife of the Infant Alfonso, are all with the Quadruple Entente, Queen Ena and Princess Beatrice being both of English birth.

The Infanta Ena is also enthusiastically pro-French, and indeed the only members of the royal house of Spain who lean, like Queen Christina, toward Austria and her allies, are her son-in-law, the Infant Fernando, who was until his marriage a Prince of Bavaria, and her sister-in-law, the Infanta Ysa, who is married to Prince Ferdinand of Bavaria, Surgeon-General of the German Army. As the Queen Mother is devoted to her son-in-law and to her grandchildren, the condition of affairs at court resulting from the war naturally is a source to her of worry and distress just at present.

Finally, on Sunday next, there comes a birthday which many on this side of the Atlantic are certain to observe with expression of good will, namely, that of little Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, perhaps one of the most heroic and altogether fascinating figures of the present war. She was deeply beloved by the Belgians prior to the invasion of their country by

Queen Elizabeth of Belgium and Dowager Queen of Spain Also Have Birthdays This Week

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this noise, the terrible scenes that she has witnessed, the hardships and fatigue that she has endured, the losses that she has sustained of all her most intimate and precious treasures, her health and shatter the nerves of even the strongest men. And yet she is a frail, dainty, delicate little woman, tremendously feminine, and who until the war suffered greatly and frequently from ill health, owing to the climate of Belgium being so different from that of the Bavarian highlands among which she had been born and reared.

And it has added to the pangs of the sufferings which she has had to endure to know that chief among the German troops who have been ravaging Belgium, devastating the country from end to end and perpetrating all sorts of acts of cruelty and barbarism upon her Belgian lieges have been precisely the Bavarian regiments led by her own brother, Duke Francis of Bavaria.

The last winter asked the museum to lend a selection of pictures for a summer exhibition. The exhibition is installed in the Lorillard Mansion in Bronx Park, the building in which the Bronx Society of Arts and Sciences has had its headquarters since 1908. The house was erected about the middle of the nineteenth century by Pierre Lorillard. In the gorge of the

collections in the United States, and advantage was taken of this opportunity to secure his services for the museum. He will begin his duties in September.

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reason of the wholesome charm of her home life, presenting as it did a striking contrast to that of her husband's predecessor on the throne, Leopold.

She has also won them all by her quiet philanthropy, and by her sympathy and unaffected way of going about relieving poverty, sickness and misery wherever she could find them. But her people have now learned to adore her, and it may safely be asserted that there is no crowned head in Europe that has so great a hold upon the hearts of her subjects.

Sending her children across to England, where they have been since last August at Lord Curzon's beautiful country seat of Hackwood, which he has placed at her disposal for the purpose, she has remained ever since by her husband's side, occupying a small villa with him in that small corner of the Belgian sea coast which is all that remains of King Albert's dominions. It is a bit of territory that has been successfully held by the Belgian troops against the Germans, all of whose efforts to drive them out and to take complete the conquest of Belgium have been without avail.

The fighting has gone on unintermittently. There is not a day during the past ten months when the royal couple have not been under fire, and while King Albert, dressed in the simplest fashion, in black, is in the trenches, sending the wounded, while shells and shrapnel are flying above his head, or else soothing the dying in the hospitals close by, where the moans and groans of intolerable suffering are drowned well nigh by the never ceasing noise of the German and Belgian guns.

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WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OF ART

DETAILS of the competition for the Salus prize of \$100 have been made public by the Institut Français aux Etats Unis, or the Museum of French Art, under the auspices of which the competition is to be held. This year the prize, which is offered every second year, will be for a painting, although it may be for a work in sculpture, architecture, music, painting or literature.

The competition will be open to all art students of an American university, college or art school, residents of the United States and under 25 years of age, who shall have made application to compete to the executive secretary of the Museum of French Art on or before August 1, 1915. The subject will be a decorative composition in oil, symbolic of the progress of the fine arts in France, on a canvas, size 68 centimeters (27 inches) broad by 56 centimeters (24 inches) high. This programme constitutes an agreement between the Museum of French Art on the one hand and each competitor on the other, to the terms of which agreement each competitor gives assent by the fact of submitting a painting in competition, and hereby agrees to be bound by all the provisions and conditions set forth in this programme.

The Museum of French Art agrees to pay to the author of the painting placed first by the jury the sum of \$100, and to award to the author as well the museum's medal immediately after the decision of the jury of trustees. The jury which will judge the paintings submitted in competition will be composed of Robert Henri and Charles Hoffbauer.

The trustees of the Museum of French Art will convene to make the award of the prize, and after receiving the report of the jury, they will thereupon open the envelope bearing the number of the painting placed first, and will award to its author the prize in the competition. Immediately after making the award, the trustees will notify the author of the prize and will send a copy of their report to each competitor. The painting shall not be made public, reproduced or publicly exhibited, until after the award by the trustees. The painting to which the prize shall have been awarded will remain the property of the Museum of French Art. After the decision of the jury has been reached in the competition all other paintings will immediately be returned to their authors.

All paintings, properly packed, must be addressed to the trustees of the Museum of French Art at their office 599 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and delivered at said office, express prepaid, not later than Nov. 1, 1915, at noon. The trustees reserve the right to refuse to accept any paintings offered for delivery later than this date. All the paintings shall be unsigned, but in the wrapper of the painting shall be placed a card bearing the name and address of its author enclosed in a plain envelope



Portrait of his daughter, by George de F. Brush. In the Knoedler Galleries.

sealed and addressed to the trustees of the Museum of French Art. All the paintings will be removed from their wrappers by the executive secretary, who will give to each painting and its sealed envelope a number, by which it shall be known to the jury until the award, at which time the chairman of the board of trustees will open the envelope bearing the number of the preselected painting, and will forthwith award to its author the first prize in the competition.

From Mestrovich's work at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London, serves to introduce to England a collection of the sculpture of this Dalmatian Serb, whose great talent won universal recognition at the Rome International Exhibition of 1911. Mestrovich is the son of a peasant, and in his youth he herded

tended for the building are on view at South Kensington. Exhibitions in Paris and Vienna (the latter in 1910) brought him increasing fame, which culminated in his triumph at the Rome International in 1911.

During the year 1915 pictures by James McNeill Whistler, George W. Bellows and Arthur B. Davies have been purchased for the Rhode Island School of Design. Providence, from the income of the Jesse Metcalf Fund. These works are the "Harmony in Blue: The Duet," by Whistler; "Rain on the River," by Bellows, and the "Recall of Spring," by Davies. Engravers of the works by Bellows and Davies appear in this issue of the Bulletin of the Rhode Island School of Design. Bellows' "Rain on the River" shows the Hudson at a point opposite New York. The storm which is passing across the rugged surface of the stream is violent, but it does not prevent the activities of life from following their usual course. The artist has found in the sheets of rain, the gray clouds, the hillside park in the foreground and the effects of the wind a congenial and animated subject, expressed with his customary vigor and sincerity. Few of Davies' works possess more delicacy and charm of conception and treatment than his "Recall of Spring," in which the descriptive is subordinated to the decorative.

The list of paintings by American artists purchased from the income of the Jesse Metcalf Fund now includes examples of Winslow Homer, George Hitchcock, William M. Chase, R. Swain Gifford, J. Alden Weir, Childre Hassam, Mary Cassatt, John W. Alexander, Eugene Vail, John Singleton Copley, J. H. Twachtman, Emil Carlson, George Inness, Charles H. Woodbury, T. W. Dewing, Dwight W. Tryon and William Sergeant Kendall, in addition to the three above mentioned. All these have been bought since 1900.

At their meeting on June 14 the trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art voted to establish a department of Far Eastern art and to appoint as its curator S. C. Bosch Reitz. The creation of such a department as one of the main divisions of the museum, with a trained expert at its head, has been under consideration for a number of years, but various circumstances have hitherto prevented its being carried into effect. The purpose in mind has been to bring all the examples of Far Eastern art in the museum under the charge of one competent authority, of the subject, even though some of them are held under conditions which prevent their being brought together, and to rely upon the same authority for guidance in the systematic organization and development of this collection henceforth.

As it is now to be organized, this department will include the arts of China and Japan and those of other countries which have close artistic affiliation with them, such as Corea and Tibet. For the present the exhibition space devoted to the new department will necessarily remain as it

is, there being no room for substantial change or expansion, but with the growth of the building it is to be hoped that these conditions may be improved, both in size and character, and that our collection of the arts of the Far East may grow in proportion.

Mr. Reitz, who is to be the curator, is well known among European collectors as a connoisseur of Oriental ceramics, a subject which he has made a specialty for a number of years past. His knowledge of it will make him a valuable acquisition for New York, because of the widespread interest in the subject here, outside of the museum as well as in it. With

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